

# SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress  
2nd Session

Vote No. 231

July 23, 1996, 5:19 pm  
Page S-8509 Temp. Record

## WELFARE REFORM RECONCILIATION/Abstinence Education

**SUBJECT:** Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 . . . S. 1956. Domenici motion to waive the Budget Act for the consideration of section 2909.

### ACTION: MOTION REJECTED, 52-46

**SYNOPSIS:** As reported, S. 1956, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996, will enact major welfare reforms. The Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program will be replaced with a new Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant to the States. The TANF block grant will be capped through 2001. Time limits will be placed on individuals receiving TANF benefits. Overall, the growth in non-Medicaid welfare spending will be slowed to 4.3 percent annually. The bill originally included major Medicaid reforms, but most of those provisions were stricken when the bill was reported. Without those Medicaid reforms, welfare spending will still be reduced by \$61.4 billion over 6 years.

**Section 2909** will provide a mandatory \$75 million annual appropriation through the Maternal and Child Health Care block grant to fund abstinence education programs combating teenage pregnancy and illegitimacy.

Senator Exon raised the point of order that section 2909 violated section 313(b)(1)(A) of the Budget Act because it did not have a budgetary impact. Senator Domenici then moved to waive the Budget Act for the consideration of that section. Generally, those favoring the motion to waive favored section 2909; those opposing the motion to waive opposed section 2909.

**NOTE:** A three-fifths majority (60) vote of the Senate is required to waive the Budget Act. Following the vote, the point of order was upheld and the section was thus stricken.

**Those favoring** the motion to waive contended:

Preventing teenage pregnancy and out-of-wedlock births is a critical part of welfare reform. For decades, huge sums have been spent on "value-neutral" programs that have concentrated on distributing condoms and birth control pills to teenagers. Those programs, at best, have mentioned the possibility of abstinence only in passing. They have consistently resulted in higher rates of

(See other side)

YEAS (52)			NAYS (46)			NOT VOTING (2)	
Republicans (48 or 92%)		Democrats (4 or 9%)	Republicans (4 or 8%)	Democrats (42 or 91%)		Republicans (1)	Democrats (1)
Abraham	Helms	Biden	Chafee	Akaka	Kennedy	Kassebaum- <sup>4</sup>	Inouye- <sup>2</sup>
Ashcroft	Hutchison	Exon	Cohen	Baucus	Kerrey		
Bennett	Inhofe	Heflin	Jeffords	Bingaman	Kerry		
Bond	Kempthorne	Nunn	Snowe	Boxer	Kohl		
Brown	Kyl			Bradley	Lautenberg		
Burns	Lott			Breaux	Leahy		
Campbell	Lugar			Bryan	Levin		
Coats	Mack			Bumpers	Lieberman		
Cochran	McCain			Byrd	Mikulski		
Coverdell	McConnell			Conrad	Moseley-Braun		
Craig	Murkowski			Daschle	Moynihan		
D'Amato	Nickles			Dodd	Murray		
DeWine	Pressler			Dorgan	Pell		
Domenici	Roth			Feingold	Pryor		
Faircloth	Santorum			Feinstein	Reid		
Frahm	Shelby			Ford	Robb		
Frist	Simpson			Glenn	Rockefeller		
Gorton	Smith			Graham	Sarbanes		
Gramm	Specter			Harkin	Simon		
Grams	Stevens			Hollings	Wellstone		
Grassley	Thomas			Johnston	Wyden		
Gregg	Thompson						
Hatch	Thurmond						
Hatfield	Warner						

#### EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

1—Official Business  
2—Necessarily Absent  
3—Illness  
4—Other

#### SYMBOLS:

AY—Announced Yea  
AN—Announced Nay  
PY—Paired Yea  
PN—Paired Nay

promiscuity among teenagers and higher abortion rates, and they have just as consistently resulted in liberals in Congress concluding that what obviously was needed to turn the situation around was even more money on the same programs. Billions of dollars have been spent over the years. Most of that money has been given to Planned Parenthood. At the same time, almost no funding has been given for abstinence education, and liberal Democrats have regularly tried to eliminate the small sums that have been given. In total, less than \$10 million per year is spent by the Federal Government on such programs. Lower funding is given despite the fact that abstinence education programs across the country have succeeded in reducing teenage pregnancy rates. Based on these facts, a section was included in this bill that will require \$75 million in abstinence education funding every year. Though some of our colleagues might find the concept a bit radical, the idea is that the Government should fund what works instead of spending more and more money on what does not. We urge our colleagues not to allow a procedural motion to stand in the way of common sense. We urge them to join us in waiving the Budget Act for the consideration of this section.

**Those opposing** the motion to waive contended:

Section 2909 will take scarce funds from the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Program to fund the abstinence program. Abstinence education is important, but so too is funding for prenatal care, newborn screening, care for children with disabilities, parent education, immunizations, and preventive dental visits, all of which are paid for through this block grant. We disapprove of the funding source for section 2909, and must therefore oppose the motion to waive.